



Tradition of Caring

"Path of Destruction"

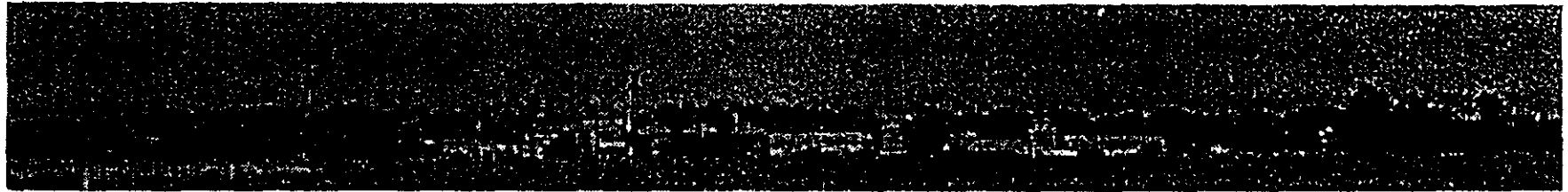
SPENCER, SD

TORNADO

MAY 30, 1998

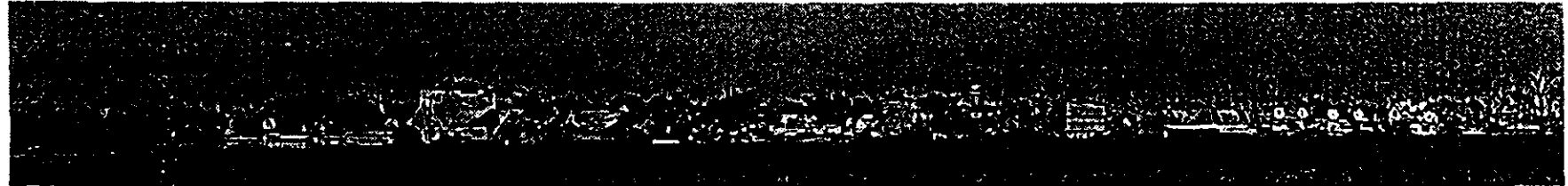
SPENCER, SD TORNADO

The headlines here and beyond...



Above, probably the last photo of Spencer skyline taken between 1:30 and 2 PM on Saturday, May 30, 1998. Seven hours later, Spencer was devastated by a tornado. Scene below on Monday afternoon was shot from same location. Water tower shown above left was ripped off its footings and slammed to the ground

upside down. Leg on elevator in center left (below) was completely demolished along with the upper superstructure. Grain bins and wooden elevators were ripped to shreds with lower portions left standing but destroyed. Round dishes to the right of damaged bins are satellite links for major news media.



South Dakota's worst tornado destroys Spencer, 6 killed, 150 injured

Story and photos ©1998 by Mike Sougstad

For the first time in 40 years, I turned off Highway 38 and drove the half mile into Spencer. It was noon on Saturday, May 30, 1998.

I drove around town looking for interesting scenes and building that would make for good sketches and paintings. At noon the sun does not create interesting shadows, so regrettably, I did not shoot any film but made mental notes of different buildings--the elevator, a couple of wooden churches, the antique store, three or four houses---and planned to come back next week later in the day.

Southwest of Spencer, at the quarry, the pink piles of quartzite surrounded by spring green grass and a blue sky caught my eye. I took pho-

tos. Across the road was an old farm house with Black Angus cattle standing and laying in the shade around the doorway and porch. It was hot and humid. The scene would make an interesting painting which I would title "Cow House." I shot more photos. I noticed that I had one frame left and turned slightly and shot the skyline of Spencer (see photo above). This was between 1:30 and 2 PM.

Seven hours later, a tornado warning for northern Hanson and McCook Counties came across the television screen. I looked out the window and saw the dance of clouds gathering above and around Fulton.

Clouds of green, yellow and pink clashed with white, white clouds, gray

white, blue and black clouds and I watched the tornados form. The wind blew hard out of the south and then suddenly it was very still. To the north of town, a cloud of dust cruised across a field. I heard a roar that sounded like a freight train but it was not near and the sound was moving away from me.

The wind began to blow again, it started to rain and the setting sun in the west came out. Looking towards Spencer, a rainbow appeared against the black sky. Overhead, Mother Nature treated my eyes to a vivid and bright color show of clouds and sky. The eerie sky was as bright as noon day sun.

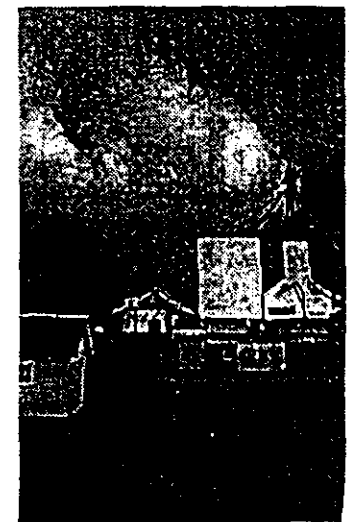
Moments later the tornado slammed through the farms of Rich-

ard Steimmetz, Norman Papendick and Jason Schoon in eastern Hanson County, crossed the line into McCook County and tore through Spencer, wiping it off the map, killing six people and injuring 150--- over half the population.

In terms of damage, death and injuries, it was the worst tornado in South Dakota's history.

I continued to shoot photos of the colorful sky, totally unaware of what was happening 10 miles east. ■

Clouds from the warm and cold front over and above Fulton collided to create the tornados that destroyed farms and Spencer a few moments later. Five to six different tornado funnels were spotted around the area.





**Small eyewear
is what's in**

Life 1B



**What Canaries owner
hopes for Sioux Falls** Sports 1C

**Iowa teen in wheelchair training for
world track championship** Sioux Empire 1D

Argus Leader

DAY, JUNE 1, 1998 ☆

SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

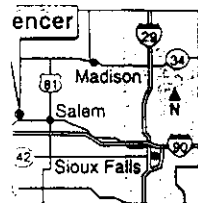
www.argusleader.com

'The town is gone

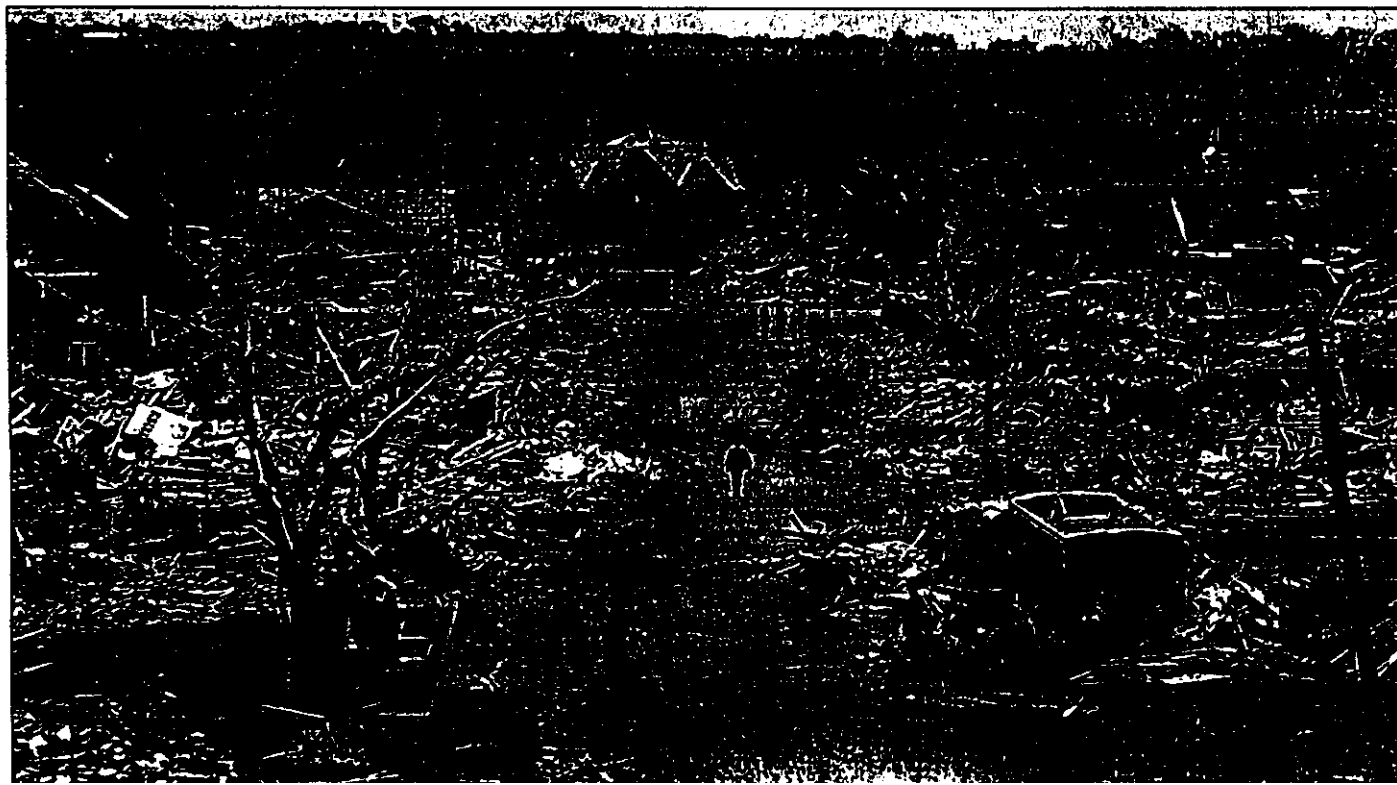
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KELO fund drive raises \$638,000 for tornado victims

DONATION STATUS REPORT

Donations rolled in from around the world

in person. "Some people had to park down by Minerva's. They couldn't get any closer," says Millage.

The restaurant is located two long city blocks from the TV station, which is at 501 S. Phillips Ave.

Donations and pledges came in from around the country. One man watching on satellite called from Houston. Another, who followed the telethon on the Internet, called from Panama City.

Dick Bremer, the Minnesota Twins play-by-play announcer for Midwest Sports Channel, donated a collection of a dozen baseballs raised by Kelo is being forwarded to the Governor's Tornado Relief Fund.

The telethon was scheduled to last 2½ hours, but the response was so overwhelming the station extended it by an hour.

"And the phones are still ringing," said Mark Millage, the station's news director. "It's amazing testimony to the people of South Dakota. That's the real story. We simply provided an opportunity for them to do what they've wanted to do all week."

In addition to pledging money, many people brought items to the station to auction. Those who couldn't get through on the phone drove to Kelo to drop off money

my doctor, my baby-sitter — friends from high school I haven't seen in years, people I know — Governor's Tornado Relief Fund at 1-800-578-3738.

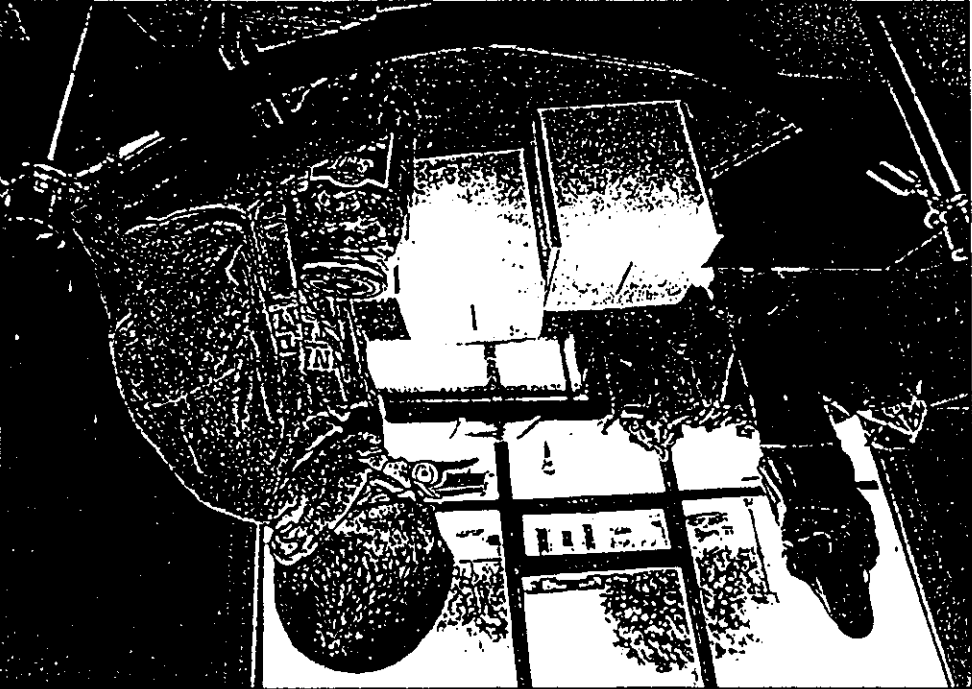
To make a donation, call the Governor's Tornado Relief Fund at 1-800-578-3738.

Millage said. "It's up to honesty and honor that people will fulfill the pledge."

The TV station will forward copies of all pledge sheets to the governor's office, which will be responsible for collecting the money.

While donations continue since Tuesday, Kelo's task now is accounting for the pledges.

Millage said. "It's up to honesty and honor that people will fulfill the pledge."



Ken Kistner/Argus Leader
Nathan Gilmore, 12, of Renner, holds a jar of change onto a donations table at Kelo-TV studios on Thursday in downtown Sioux Falls. Gilmore and his sister, Carrie, 15 (in background), estimate there was about \$50 in the jar.

From Girl Scouts to retirees, donors plunging in to help storm victims

Opinion

"Congress shall make no law respecting establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."
—First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Harley-Davidson, bikers raising funds for MDA

Next week, residents of Sioux Falls will notice hundreds of motorcycle riders in and around town. We should warmly welcome them. They're participants in the Harley-Davidson 95th Anniversary Reunion Ride, and they're raising funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The riders coming through Sioux Falls are among nearly 100,000 riders from all corners of the country heading to Milwaukee for the Harley-Davidson reunion June 10-13. Sponsors of each rider have pledged donations to MDA for every mile ridden.

Harley-Davidson, a leading national sponsor of MDA, has supported the association for 18 years through rides and other events. The anniversary ride will help Harley-Davidson reach its goal of raising \$1.5 million for MDA.

The money enables MDA to provide clinics such as the one in Sioux Falls, summer camps for youngsters with neuromuscular diseases, assistance with wheelchair purchases, support groups and other services, along with cutting-edge research, which leads to cures and treatment.

People with any of 40 neuromuscular diseases in our community and their families are deeply grateful to Harley-Davidson, its dealers, members of the Harley Owners Groups and other riders in this event for their staunch support of MDA.

— Linda A. Jensen
district director
Muscular Dystrophy Association
Sioux Falls

KELO led coverage of weather, Spencer

A very large onion to KDLT-TV for its terrible coverage of Saturday's deadly weather story. I was watching the movie "Speechless," and the station continued to interrupt with weather coverage. I have no complaints. But from 9:15 p.m. until almost 10 p.m., it used the same weather map, with no changes.

To stay, S.D. high-tech workers need resources, wages

I found the May 31 article "Companies unite to lure tech-savvy workers" interesting. I have been employed in the information-technology field in Sioux Falls for about three years. I work full time for a local bank, and I run my own home business.

According to the article, employers are spending much time and effort to draw information-technology employees. If businesses in South Dakota want to draw employees to the field, treat the employees and the information-technology department as an investment. Give the employees three things: education, resources and competitive wages.

They need education to continue to gain knowledge and grow. They also need resources such as books, magazines and the Internet to retain that knowledge. They also need competitive wages so they will stay in South Dakota.

South Dakota businesses have to be competitive with those in large cities such as Minneapolis and Omaha. Most of my college friends in the information-technology field left South Dakota to earn two to three times what I earn



Argus Leader file photo

Jeff Briden, engineering project manager at Sencore, works with a spectrum analyzer used to test cable television equipment. Briden was recruited by Sencore from a job in Ventura, Calif., in 1991. Sioux Falls companies have formed a cooperative designed to attract highly skilled workers such as Briden to Sioux Falls.

staying in South Dakota.

If South Dakota wants to keep information-technology employees, give them a reason to stay. Businesses need to invest in their future by investing in their employees and their families a future.

— Dan M. Gallagher
Sioux Falls

A large orchid to KELO-TV. Its weather map and coverage let you know exactly where there were weather problems. That was up-to-the-second coverage.

A huge onion also to KSFY-TV. At 5 p.m., it cut off the golf

tournament to air its poor and amateurish coverage about the Spencer tornado. It promised to return to golf after its "Spencer Special," but it never did.

Another orchid to KELO. Its coverage of the Spencer tragedy, complete with aerial shots of the damage and live interviews, was top flight and totally professional.

I hope KDLT and KSFY taped the KELO coverage to see how a news leader does it.

— John W. Hagerman
Sioux Falls

Air your views here

We welcome letters to the editor that have a maximum of 250 words and are written exclusively to the Argus Leader.

Write:
Letters to the Editor
P.O. Box 5034
Sioux Falls, S.D.
57117-5034
Fax: 605-331-2294
e-mail:
editor@argusleader.com

For verification purposes: Please include your mailing address and daytime phone number

Communities must be proactive to prevent violence

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1998

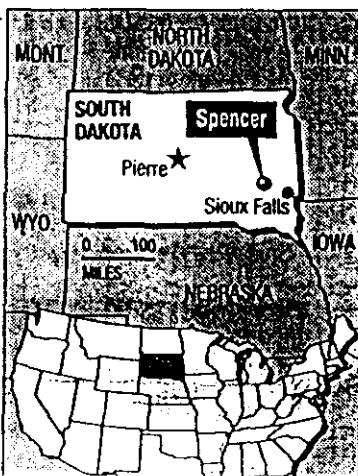


BY KEN KLOTZ/BACH—ARGUS LEADER VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the streets of Spencer, S.D., a National Guardsman patrols. The post office, fire station, library, bank and four churches were destroyed.

After Tornado, a Town Is No More

Six Killed, Half of 300 Residents Injured in Spencer, S.D.; Other Storms Fatal



By JON JETER
Washington Post Staff Writer

SPENCER, S.D., May 31—This prairie town no longer exists.

The post office is gone. So are the bank and the firehouse. The water tower has toppled, and the churches are flattened. Three hundred people lived here yesterday. Now six people are dead, and only six houses are left standing.

No one alive here has ever experienced a tornado like the one that blasted through Saturday shortly before 9 p.m., swallowing this hamlet in a funnel cloud nearly a quarter-mile wide. Nearly half of the town's residents were injured. None of this hamlet's residents or structures was untouched by the tornado

cards.

"It ate everything," said 16-year-old Robert Doty. "You could see trees being lifted, and cars and the roofs off of houses. I was scared."

Doty said he and his mother, Kathy, were at home when a friend stopped by, frantic and out of breath. "He said: 'We have to get out of here now. A tornado touched down here.'"

The three roared off in a car, Kathy Doty said. "I didn't really think anything of it until I turned around and saw this huge black cloud coming across the field. It was just huge. I've never seen anything so big. All I wanted was to get my son out of there."

Gov. William J. Janklow (R) summoned the National Guard, state highway patrol and 100 prison inmates to lend a hand today as

Volunteers swarm Spencer



Frank Robertson/Argus Leader

Volunteers comb tornado-ravaged Spencer on Thursday, looking for anything salvageable. About 8,000 people answered Gov. Bill Janklow's call to help the town's residents.



THE BROOKINGS

Register

On the chilly:
Rain likely tonight
Mostly cloudy Fri
Highs in the mid
Page A2

OUR NEWS IS YO
For all the news t

THURSDAY, June 4, 1998

Telethon raises money for tornado victims

FROM STAFF REPORTS
The Brookings Register

In the aftermath of the tornado that destroyed much of Spencer, helping hands continue to reach out from South Dakotans and out-of-staters alike.

Pledges of monetary support were still pouring into KELO-LAND TV, Sioux Falls, this morning after its 6:30 — 10 p.m. telethon Wednesday. With the phones ringing and the dollar total changing with each call, donations at 9:30 a.m. today reached more than \$500,000, said Mark Millage, KELO news director.

He said donations were evenly split, with about half the dollars

coming from companies, half from individual donations.

"New York Life gave \$100,000 and designated it for rebuilding churches," Millage said. "Citibank (South Dakota) donated \$25,000 for the American Red Cross fund. Individuals called and gave five, 10, 20 dollars. People gave all they could."

He said people who couldn't get a phone call through drove to the station. And calls came in from as far away as Florida and Texas.

The money collected will go into the "Governor's Tornado Relief Fund" and be spent in Spencer, Millage said.

"It will be used to help the people of Spencer get back on their

feet and get on with their lives," he added. "All that money stays at home."

People wishing to make donations can call 1-800-888-KELO (5356).

Donations can also be made by calling the Governor's Office, at 1-800-567-3738 or mailing them directly to Box A, Governor's Office, State Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre 57501. Make check's payable to: "Governor's Tornado Relief Fund."

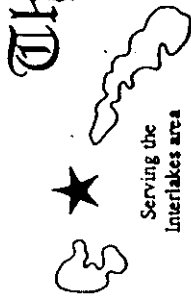
In Brookings there are also opportunities for providing aid to Spencer victims.

Financial donations are also being accepted at all banks in Brookings. Donations should be

designated specifically for aid to Spencer.

Members of the SDSU-Brookings Federal Credit Union wishing to donate funds may do so at the office. Check or draft share should be made payable to Spencer Tornado Victim Relief.

At the Brookings Wal-Mart parking lot, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. today and Friday, donations are being accepted for the Salvation Army. Donations of money, packaged food products, pre-sweetened drinks, juices of all kinds, individual containers of bottled water, new underclothing, sheets and pillow cases, toiletries, personal care items and sun-screening products are most needed.



Serving the
Interlakes area

The Madison

Daily Leader

Thursday
June 4, 1998
Madison, South Dakota
109th year, No. 43

40¢

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501 S PHILLIPS AVE
SIOUX FALLS SD 57104-6820

to Spencer

Telethon raises \$500K for victims

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Sioux Falls television station KELO-TV raised more than \$500,000 for victims of the Spencer tornado during a fund-raising broadcast Wednesday night.

Mark Millage, KELO-TV news director, said the total as of late Thursday morning was \$520,000.

Much of the 3½-hour show was broadcast from the scene of the tornado, which destroyed much of the town. The twister killed six people and injured 150.

Millage said the station had no idea the response would be so great. The potential was there for this to be successful, but we really didn't have a dollar

amount that would label this a success," he said in an interview.

People who couldn't get through by telephone to make their donations drove to the studios to drop off their money. Millage said KELO got calls from as far away as Texas and Florida, he said.

Most of the money will go to the governor's tornado relief fund, Millage said.

One donation of \$100,000 was earmarked for the McCook County Ministerial Association to help rebuild the churches that were destroyed. And a \$25,000 donation from Citibank will go to the American Red Cross disaster relief fund, he said.

or she is part of a newsworthy subject obtained without intruding on confidential matters. However, news organizations could be held accountable should they step over the line, such as recording a private conversation.

MOVING UP - News In Motion, the daily satellite-delivered news video service from

Michaels Media, is in motion to the next level. Weather In Motion is now becoming a daily staple for the market-exclusive service. NIM will deliver a daily animated graphic detailing the day's top weather story. The service is available free to NIM. There are more than 600 weather-related news animations in its library.

PROTECTING THEIR TURF

Through one of the most successful local TV branding efforts around, many residents of the Sioux Falls area call their neck of the woods "KELO-Land" (pronounced KELLO) - as in KELO-TV, the market's CBS affiliate. Unlike most other markets, the CBS station there has retained the dominance that was widespread in the '60s. Saturday, the team at KELO showed why it is still the market's dominant news operation. It was a hot and muggy day, even early in the morning. There were even storm warnings out as people woke up. KELO ND Mark Millage told us they had 2 of the station's 4 meteorologists, Scott Mundt & Shawn Cable, in Saturday morning to handle the weather problems that were stirring up. They arrived at 6 am- and didn't get home until 1:30 am that night. Although the weather threatened through the day, it didn't really turn violent until near sunset. KELO started the Children's Miracle Network telethon at 8 pm. When the tornado warning sounded shortly after, people rushed from the central location across the street from the station to get into the building. About 45 minutes later, a tornado destroyed the nearby small town of Spencer (an incident you probably heard about). Despite power outages, many people did go to their basements, but the 100-year-old houses common in rural South Dakota did not hold up well. Half of the 600 people in town were hurt. Six died. To offer an indication of the power of this storm, the tornado destroyed a steel water tower -- a tower built in 1935. The company in Pennsylvania that built it told the station (after asking to have video sent to them) that it was the first one of their towers to ever fall. (One built in Homestead, Florida, survived Hurricane Andrew.) Mark told us, "The incredible stories were told not only during our live coverage, but also after-the-fact. The reporters and photographers who came back from covering the story were very emotional; the pictures just didn't do justice to the devastation." Mark said staff members just started showing up without having to be called, including main anchor Steve Hemmingsen, who had just returned hours earlier from a Florida vacation. He suited up, sat down, and stayed on.

KELO was on the air with tornado coverage from after 9 pm until 1:30 am. The team of 4 meteorologists also fed updates to 3 or 4 radio stations in the market. In addition to news crews, the 4 meteorologists stayed on top of the weather, using the station's unique dual-Doppler setup. Last year, the station invested \$1 million to place two Doppler units, one in Sioux Falls and one in Huron. Mark said they were able to see the tornado develop, and showed the radar image that prompted a tornado warning for the Spencer area 20 minutes before the town was actually hit. A year ago, before the new weather system, KELO would have been like its competition in using a radar system that showed a radar image 10 to 20 minutes old. The next day (Sunday), KELO aired an hour special on the storm. There were so many requests for tapes of the special, the station is having copies reproduced and sold, with all profits going to the Red Cross. They're also planning a telethon for the storm victims for tomorrow night. It's difficult to say this was a "defining moment" for KELO, because it has owned every big story in the market for years. But KELO's efforts last weekend will last in viewer memories nearly as long as the tornado itself. While the competition was airing syndicated programming and using a weathercaster in his first weekend out of college, KELO had its 4 weather professionals and an experienced news team looking out for the people who live in "KELO-land." Mark said, "Our weather people were delivering the information with a live radar sweep, and giving us all a feeling of holding our hands through it. We didn't cut in and then go back to programming. We didn't just put a graphic of a tornado in the corner of the screen. We held viewers' hands for almost 5 hours."

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Magid Morning



Friday, June 5, 1998

THE MAGID NETWORK™

DEFEATING TRAGEDY - This is an amazing story. KELO/Sloux Falls News Director Mark Millage told us they hoped a fund-raising effort would collect \$100,000 for the victims of the tornado that hit the little South Dakota town of Spencer early this week. KELO's sales staff contacted advertisers asking for their help in supporting a telethon airing Wednesday night. Word spread. Hours later, the station had pledges of more than \$175,000 -- and that was *before* the telethon aired! Among the corporate donations was \$100,000 from New York Life Insurance (earmarked for the rebuilding of the town's 4 churches). Burger King offered \$5,000 in cash and an equal amount worth of food. Before and during the telethon, viewers started bringing in items to be auctioned off. Lots of high-value collectibles. A Minneapolis Star newspaper from the day President Kennedy was shot. Original framed artwork. Even Minnesota Twins play-by-play announcer Dick Bremer found out about the auction and offered a dozen baseballs autographed by such stars as Ken Griffey Jr., Frank Thomas, and Cal Ripken, Jr. One little girl brought in her most prized possession - a Princess Beanie Baby - to help the tornado victims. A woman who tried to call in to buy it so she could return it to the girl wasn't able to get through. She drove to the station in desperation, but was too late. Instead she paid \$500 for a complete collection of McDonald's "Teenie Babies" promotion to give to her. Another family couldn't afford a cash contribution, so instead offered a Beanie valued at \$500. Mark told us they set a bin in the lobby for people to put their donations in: "I've lived in this town all my life, and I saw people in that lobby I hadn't run into in years. People were walking 3 and 4 blocks because it was so hard to find a parking space near the station." Much of the telethon (which was expanded from 2 to 3 hours to handle the demand) was done live from Spencer, with CBS donating the satellite time. A dish-owner in Houston saw the telethon and called in a pledge. Another came over the Internet from Panama City, Florida. Everyone in the station worked hard through the evening, either on the air or behind the scenes (imagine the paperwork!).

As of Thursday afternoon -- with the phones still ringing -- more than \$620,000 had been pledged to the relief effort! Mark said they've had calls from the governor's office and Senator Tom Daschle with complimentary words. But Mark said they're not taking any credit: "This TV station just provided an opportunity for people to do what they felt is right in their hearts. I brought my children down to watch this, and it was a wonderful lesson for them. This was by far the most money ever raised by a fundraiser in South Dakota, and it came just days after we raised \$300,000 for the Children's Miracle Network. That's why we live here. These are giving people who really care for one another; they're all part of the community they call 'KELO-land.'"

EXECUTIVE NEWS * Greg Meidel, chairman & CEO of Studios USA, has resigned effective June 30. Meidel said, "Barry Diller and I decided several months ago that I would leave the company after seeing Studios USA through its acquisition, the network pilot season, advertiser upfront presentations & International screenings ... It is time for me to move on to my next challenge." Meidel's success for USA and its predecessor, Universal, include *Jerry Springer*, *Sally Jessy Raphael*, & the *Xena/Hercules* shows. Studios USA announced that Bob Fleming, now exec. VP/CFO, will become group president. Steve Rosenberg will be named president, Studios USA Domestic TV. Also, it noted that Ken Solomon, pres. of Studios USA TV and Barbara Fisher, pres. of Studios USA Pictures, will remain in their current roles.

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*As rumored, Fox has promoted Mitch Stern, Television Stations unit president and COO, to chairman & CEO. He will continue to oversee Fox's 22-owned TV stations, and will also supervise Twentieth TV, its syndication arm.

PAYOLA? - Federal agents served subpoenas on 20 radio stations & 18 record wholesalers suspected of being involved in a pay-for-play scam. The investigation was initiated when Fonovisa, a record company subsidiary of Mexican broadcaster Grupo Televisa, came to the US government. A statement from Televisa said, "As a result of an internal investigation, senior management has learned that Fonovisa ... has made certain promotional payments in apparent violation of applicable laws." Sources told the LA Times the couriers allegedly visited

more...

AP-SD--Fund-raisers (Tops)

TV, radio station raise more than half million dollars for Spencer

(Sioux Falls) -- A Sioux Falls television station has raised more than a half (M) million dollars for Spencer tornado victims.

Mark Millage (MIHL'-uhj), the news director at K-E-L-O T-V, says the total as of late this morning was 520-thousand dollars.

K-E-L-O did a live fund-raiser last night from the town that was destroyed in a tornado.

Millage says the station had no idea the response would be so great. He says people who couldn't make their donations by phone drove to the studios to drop off their money. The station got calls from as far away as Texas and Florida.

He says most of the money will go to the governor's tornado relief fund. One donation of 100-thousand dollars was earmarked for the McCook County Ministerial Association to rebuild the churches that were destroyed. And Millage says a 25-thousand-dollar donation from Citibank will go to the American Red Cross disaster relief fund.

Also, K-I-K-N Radio of Sioux Falls has hosted a marathon radio broadcast that has raised more than 15-thousand dollars so far.

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AP-NY-06-04-98 1215EDT

CBS NEWS HOT SHEET

FROM: Chris Young
TO: NEWS DIRECTORS
DATE: June 10, 1998
CC: General Managers and Promotion Managers

CONGRATULATIONS to our friends at KELO/ SIOUX FALLS, SD ... After covering the tornado that destroyed Spencer, SD on May 29, KELO decided to do more to help the people in their community ... With only two days of preparation, they hosted a telethon, with hopes of raising money that would aid in the rebuilding of Spencer. Let's just say, for three ½ hours, the phones rang off the hook ... At the end ... KELO raised \$650,000 and the money has been sent to the Governor's Spencer Relief Fund. As **GENERAL MANAGER MARK ANTONITIS** said, "This has been the most unique and gratifying experience for everyone here at KELO." **Congratulations to the staff at KELO for their hard work and dedication to their community!**

LIVE DOPPLER 2000...

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

VIEWERS

LETTERS & NOTES...

Rev. James C. Joyslin
Shalom Lutheran Church
1000 Maple Street --PO Box 37
Harrisburg, South Dakota 57032
(605) 743-5382

June 4, 1998

Mr. Mark Antonitis, General Manager
KELO Television
501 South Phillips Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Dear Mr. Antonitis,

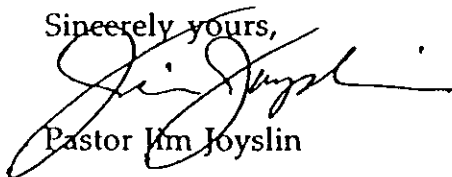
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the entire KELO staff for the absolutely marvelous and emotionally moving job you people did raising funds for the tornado victims of Spencer, SD.

It was indeed television at it's best. Through your broadcast you brought us together as one people, united in a cause for good. On Wednesday night we had a church council meeting and the majority of the members present said that they hated to leave their home because they were so moved and taken with your broadcast. The meeting was over in record time for they wanted to get home to watch the concluding moments.

Thanks to Steve Hemmingsen, Doug Lund, and Angela Kennikee (sorry about misspelling of her last name), Vernon Brown, Dave Dedrick, and all the other reporters in Spencer and those in the studio who made the disaster so real and personal. Thanks to all the support engineers who made the broadcast possible. Thanks to you and to the news and program directors for allowing this important broadcast to take place!

KELO-TV provided a great service on Wednesday, June 3rd. Thank you for your courage. Thank you for caring. Thank you for having the talented and professional personnel who touched our hearts by bringing us the story of the people of Spencer.

Sincerely yours,



Pastor Jim Joyslin

ROSALIE DRISCOLL

Dear KELO Staff,

Hats off to all of you for the superb job you did, & continue to do in the news coverage for our area. We see you at your best every day, but in an emergency like the Spencer tornado your coverage was outstanding.

You told the stories & showed us the pictures professionally yet in such a caring way.

It is largely due to your efforts that there has been so much help for Spencer

and our northeast counties.

Your weather team does an outstanding job also, & should be congratulated also for being on the cutting edge with all their technology.

This says a great deal about your management also.

During the week after the tornado it was evident that many of you were working far more hours than usual & did so willingly.

A big thank you to your entire organization at KELO. We are so fortunate to have you

A loyal viewer,
Rosalie Driscoll
Wilmington

June 4, 1998

Dear KELO TV and Associates:

I have always been a viewer of KELO Land TV. I have grown up with Doug Lund, Dave Dedrick, Steve Hemmingson, and numerous other individuals who have contributed their talent and expertise in providing the general public with the most accurate news reporting in the country.

Since Saturday May 30, my family and I have tuned into your station to get the latest information on the tragedy that struck Spencer, SD. My six year old son and I were watching your broadcast on Saturday night and were silently praying for everyone involved in the devastating tornado that swept through Spencer. From early that night with the terrific meteorology staff you have to last night's impromptu telethon you held, we have been enthralled with your excellent reporting.

I want to commend you and the entire staff at KELO TV for your unbelievable news coverage and heartwrenching stories that unfolded at Spencer. As we were watching the telethon Wednesday night, it was quite evident the emotions that were shown by your reporters. Every news clip and bit of information touched their hearts as it did ours. They have undoubtedly been putting in many long hours and days covering the Spencer tragedy. They all deserve a round of applause!

Once again, thank you to KELO TV for your generosity, your tremendous human natures, and your willingness to devote such adequate coverage to the residents of Spencer, SD. You all did a superb job and should be recognized for it.

Sincerely,

Leslie Kranz
Watertown, SD

P.S. Seeing Dave Dedrick back on the air Wednesday was a wonderful treat! We miss him and Captain Eleven.

KELO Studios
501 south Pilips Ave
Sioux falls SD 57104

KELO,

On Tuesday May 5th you had a Fundraiser for the people in Spencer, South Dakota. Well I tried to get through but I couldn't, so that's why I'm sending you this letter.

I have enclosed a check of one hundred dollars for the people in Spencer. Because I know what it is like to have a disaster happen some where.

For your information I am 11 years old ,my name is Kyle Van Gorp, and I live on a farm in Northwest Iowa.

I am also giving because I care and I know The golden rule " Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." so if my house is totaled by a twister that someone will give me something that I need.

Thank You,

Kyle Van Gorp

Spencer Relief Fund
c/o Station KELL
501 S Phillips
Sioux Falls, S. D. 57104

Enclosed is a small donation
for the people of Spencer, So and

Thank you to all of the staff
at KELL for all of your many
efforts and your time. You did
a fantastic job.

Sincerely
Darlene Williams

Notes

Please send us the
taps on Spencer
and put the rest
to Spencer fund.
We thank K & L
and their employees
for their dedication
to Spencer tragedy.
You all deserve
Oscar.

Jeannie & Jay
Red

500 to
Stephen
Henry Falls
MO 57103



I just could not get through on
the phone - I know you will accept
this check - even if it is late!

I'm glad your news always says
K&LO - land - that includes the

S.W. part of Mn! (You don't pett

Dakota 1st!) So many times we

hear how the media is interfering,
but I'm proud to be a listener that
is a "1998 Caring" station! Keep up
the tradition! Glenn Hoffman
Washington, Mn

To Whom This May Concern:

I am a nineteen year-old college student who realized just how great it is to live in South Dakota. The people really pulled together for strangers who needed help. In addition, the whole United States showed that we are all one big family. Thank you KELO band for putting together the telethon. I do not have friends or family living in Spencer, nor did I ever know there was a Spencer, S.D; however, after the tornado and seeing the pictures, my heart went out to everyone who lost their home. The people of Spencer remain in my heart and prayers. Please see that my donation gets to the people of Spencer. Thank You!

-Stacie L. Ries

through on a telephone
line last evening. We did
watch the entire K&L O Spencer
Fund Telethon. How proud
we are of K&L O and
all its employees. You
always come through!
I guess that's why you
are our favorite station.

Sincerely,
Arnold & Ethelmae Anderson

Dear KELO,

Today's our Golden Anniversary. We
plant this \$100 as Seed into God's Kingdom.

We couldn't get thru by phone, so we're
mailing our love gift so it can begin
to work in the lives of those who lost
so much.

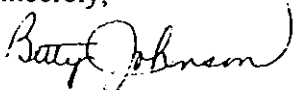
Because of Calvary,
Aunt & Evelyn Weaver
Thers. Spig., SD

June 4, 1998

To whom it may concern:

At our United Methodist Women's meeting last evening we voted to send \$150.00 to the Spencer Tornado Relief Fund. We tried calling during your telethon but the lines were so busy! That is great! We applaud KELO and your crew for all the hard work you have been doing on behalf of the people of Spencer. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Johnson".

United Methodist Women
United Methodist Church
Betty Johnson, Treasurer
Redfield, SD 57469

P.S. We also heard the challenge put out by someone for a pledge of \$135.00 for women's groups across the state.

June 4-1918
K & L staff -

Thanks for the Very good
coverage on the Spencer
Tornado. With so much
suffering & destruction
around you. it was a very
hard job, I'm sure.

Please add this check to
your total Collections

Thanks

Lorraine Alberty
Davis, S. D.

NEWS

From: Edward M. Kreider DVM[SMTP:dred@gwtc.net]
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 1998 6:54 AM
To: kelo@dakotaconnect.com
Subject: Good Job!

Thanks KELO for covering Spencer and the weather of Saturday night as thoroughly as you did. Just like the big 2 day blizzard of 97, I was glued to my set. I know people in and around Spencer, and I'm sure they appreciate all you've done for them...the telethon etc. I hope you won't have to cover stories like these often; but when you do, I'm sure you'll do it well. Thanks again.

NEWS

From: The Smalls[SMTP:smalls@santel.net]
Sent: Friday, June 05, 1998 2:26 PM
To: kelotv@dakotaconnect.com
Subject: HI could you read this!

Dear Kelo TV,

I think all the coverage you did on the Spenceer Tomado was very well done! I felt so bad about that happening to them. I mean that town is just like 80 people more than the town i live in! That would be like Alpena getting hit with a tomado, So i made a Homepage showing my support. I just thought you would like to know, because you were covering the storm!

If you want you can go to it and check it out, i won't mind!

<http://www.expage.com/page/spencerhelp>

Thank you for your time!

Julie Small